



Judicial Council of California

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PATRICIA GUERRERO

*Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council*

MILLICENT TIDWELL

Acting Administrative Director

June 13, 2023

Hon. Thomas J. Umberg, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 959 (McCarty), as introduced—Sponsor
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee—June 20, 2023

Dear Senator Umberg:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor Assembly Bill 959 (McCarty), which authorizes the council to dispose of four courthouses that are either permanently closed or will be closed upon completion of a new courthouse. The properties include the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse, the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, the Modesto Main Courthouse/Hall of Records, and the Ceres Superior Court.

Senate Bill 1732 (Escutia, Stats. 2002, ch. 1082) transferred responsibility for court facilities from the individual counties to the council. Per existing law, every sale of state-owned real property must be specifically authorized by statute. Previous sales of council property are authorized under Government Code Section 70391, et. al. The language in AB 959 aligns with the existing statutes and specifies the net proceeds are to be deposited into the council's State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

The Ceres Superior Court was permanently closed in March, 2009 and all former operations will be moving to the new courthouse in Modesto and the Modesto Main Courthouse/Hall of Records property will permanently close upon commencing occupancy in the new courthouse in December, 2024. The Schaber Courthouse in Sacramento will permanently close upon commencing occupancy in the new courthouse in February, 2024. The Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse closed permanently in November, 2014. In accordance with existing law and AB 959

Hon. Thomas J. Umberg

June 13, 2023

Page 2

language and at the request of the affected courts, the council has determined the need to sell the identified properties.

The Judicial Council is committed to access to justice and that all Californians be served in an efficient and effective manner. This bill meets that mandate by ensuring the council does not need to expend unnecessary funding, staff time, and mitigation measures for potential safety issues that are commonly associated with vacant buildings. By allowing the council to sell these buildings at fair market value and in alignment with existing law, state funding is appropriately expended where it is needed most—going toward maintaining our existing facilities that are actively in use and by allowing net proceeds to go toward building projects for new courthouses and renovations to existing courthouses to improve the court experience for the millions of Californians who access the courts every year.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor AB 959.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Morgan Lardizabal at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen

Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ML/lmm

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly
Ms. Amanda Mattson, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. Morgan Branch, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California



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PATRICIA GUERRERO

*Chief Justice of California
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MILLICENT TIDWELL

Acting Administrative Director

March 14, 2023

Hon. Brian Maienschein, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 959 (McCarty), as introduced on February 14, 2023—Sponsor
Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee—March 21, 2023

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor Assembly Bill 959 (McCarty), which authorizes the council to dispose of four courthouses that are either permanently closed currently or will be upon completion of a new courthouse. The properties include the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse, the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, the Modesto Main Courthouse/Hall of Records, and the Ceres Superior Court.

Senate Bill 1732 (Escutia, Stats. 2002, ch. 1082) transferred responsibility for court facilities from the individual counties to the Council. Under this bill the Council took ownership of the Modesto Main Courthouse/Hall of Records, Ceres Superior Court, and the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse in Sacramento County. The Council purchased land and built the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse.

The Ceres Superior Court was permanently closed in March, 2009 and all former operations will be moving to the new courthouse in Modesto. The Modesto location will permanently close upon commencing occupancy in a new courthouse in December, 2024. The Schaber Courthouse in Sacramento will permanently close upon commencing occupancy in the new courthouse in February, 2024. The Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse closed permanently in November, 2014. In accordance with existing law and AB 959 language, the council has worked with the associated counties and have collectively agreed on the need to sell the identified properties.

March 14, 2023

Page 2

Per existing law, every sale of state-owned real property must be specifically authorized by statute. Previous sales of Council property are authorized under Government Code Section 70391, et. al. The language in AB 959 aligns with the existing statutes and specifies the net proceeds are to be deposited into the council's State Court Facilities Construction Fund.

The Judicial Council is committed to ensuring all Californians will have equal access to courts and be served in an efficient and effective manner. This bill meets that mandate by ensuring the Judicial Council does not need to expend unnecessary funding, staff time, and mitigation measures for potential safety issues that are commonly associated with vacant buildings. By allowing the council to sell these buildings at fair market value and in alignment with existing law, state funding is appropriately expended where it is needed most—going toward maintaining our existing facilities that are actively in use by court users and by allowing net proceeds to go toward building projects for new courthouses and renovations to existing courthouses to improve the court experience for the millions of Californians who access the courts every year.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor AB 959.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Morgan Lardizabal at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/ML/lmm

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Mr. Anthony Reyes, District Representative, Office of Asm. Kevin McCarty
Mr. Nicholas Liedtke, Deputy Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Mr. Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California